WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857

SEPTEMBER 1987

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PATRICIA AUSTIN, ESTHER WARZYNSKI TO HEAD WCHS

Past-president Patricia Austin will again head the Society in 1987-88 with Esther Warzynski returning as vice-president.

Lucille Fisher will continue as recording secretary and Robert E. Miller, treasurer. Carol Freeman was elected corresponding secretary. Galen R. Wilson is immediate Past-president.

Alan Jones, Karen O'Neal, Patrick Owen and Marilou Warner were elected to Board of Director terms expiring in June 1990. Elaine Ference and Elizabeth Dusseau will fill vacancies expiring in 1988 due to the resignation of Joy Love and Mrs. Austin's move to president.

Other board members continuing are Louisa Pieper and Alice Ziegler (to June 1988) and Arthur H. French, Nancy Schuon, William Wallach and Pauline Walters (to June 1989).

New directors-at-large appointed by Mrs. Austin are Rosemarion Blake, Yvonne Blotner, Mary Jo Gord, Lucy Kooperman, Mary Jo Wholihan and Lawrence W. Ziegler (to 1989).

Continuing directors-at-large to June 1988 include Douglas Crary, John C. Dann, Coleman Jewett, David Pollock, Peter Rocco and Dalys Vogel.

Treasurer Robert E. Miller reported total assets of $63,119.94 on April 30, 1987. Income last year was $8,830.81, expenses, $9,458.41, for a net loss of $627.60 from May 1, 1986 assets.

Expenses included a one-time payment of $2,300 to help restore the Harris-Smith log house at Cobblestone Farm to give school children a taste of pioneer living. WCHS voted to do this in October 1984.

Financial accounts for the play are separate. A loss made up by the Society will show up in 1987-88 figures.

WCHS GIVEN LINGERIE, DRESSES, LINENS, PHOTOS OF TIMES OF TINY WAISTS, GENTLEMEN IN SPATS

WCHS received several gifts this summer, most of them dating from the late 1880s to the early 20th century. They included clothing, linens, photographs and two more recent souvenirs of former businesses.

Frances Gilmore Couch, former WCHS director, gave a wicker trunk full of men's, women's and children's clothing. Items include lacy ribbon-trimmed lingerie, tiny-waisted dresses, a fringed 72-inch square black silk shawl, a man's white pique evening vest and off-white felt spats.

They belonged to her Aunt Florence Gilmore and family of Beacon-on-Hudson, New York.

An anonymous donor gave a box with a black net dress and green silk puffed-sleeve jacket or blouse.

Mrs. John Shaw, whose husband helped run the former C. J. Sauer Lumber Company in Ann Arbor, gave an embroidered tablecloth, crocheted antimacassar with a horse center design, a folding hand fan from Morrill Typewriter Company and a plastic bag from the late Goodyear's Department Store. The linens belonged to her mother-in-law.

Dessie Hartman of Kissimmee, FL, gave three local photos. A 1910 photo showed her Uncle Fred Horton and four wagons loaded with cases bearing the name "Klings." Was there a local Kling's brewery?

A 1914 photo shows the excavation for the U-M's Newberry Residence Hall on State Street. S. A. Elsifor was the contractor.

An April 1919 photo shows a City Cartage Company truck. Ms. Hartman says that later became Godfrey Moving Company, still in business.

OLD WEST SIDE HOUSE TOUR SEPTEMBER 20

The old Argus camera building at 405 Fourth Street which has been restored by Bill Martin and Joe O'Neal of First Martin Corporation will be on the annual Old West Side house tour Sunday afternoon, Sept. 20.

COLEMAN JEWETT WILL TALK ABOUT NOTED LOCAL, STATE BLACKS

Coleman Jewett, grandson of the U-M's first Black football player, will talk about "Perspectives on Ann Arbor Black History" at the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, September 13, at the Ann Arbor, American Legion, 1035 South Main.

Jewett, assistant principal of Tappan Intermediate School, was born in Ann Arbor in 1934 and went through public schools here.

He graduated from Eastern Michigan University with bachelor's and master of arts degrees. He attended the U-M a short while and became a medical illustrator.

He was an instructor in the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C., before joining the Ann Arbor Public Schools where he has taught for the past 24 years. He is a WCHS director-at-large.

Besides family history and local anecdotes, he plans to talk about noted Michigan Blacks. His main source of information on them is the 1915 *Michigan Manual of the Freedmen's Progress Commission Journal*. One of the noted Blacks is Ypsilanti's Elijah McCoy.

NEED ONLY 372 MORE POINTS FOR SCREEN

WCHS needs only 372 more points by Sept. 30 to get a movie and slide screen courtesy of Bill Knapp's restaurants. At press time we had 5,078 points or 93 percent.

If you eat at Knapp's please continue to ask for points when you pay your bill. Save the yellow point slips and bring them to a meeting or mail them to: Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You and your friends can get points at any Knapp's.

'NECESSARY PRECAUTION'

"Why does Carter always say, 'Whoa!' before he cranks his Ford?"

"The first time he tried to crank it, it kicked and broke his wrist."

From *Ford Smiles: All The Best Current Jokes About A Rattling Good Car*, by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesberry Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

IT ALL STARTED WITH FEATHERBEDS

In the antique trade, an item is more valuable and interesting if it comes with what dealers call provenance—information and proof about its source or origin.

Iver Schmidt of Schmidt's Antiques, Inc., of Ypsilanti shared the "provenance" of the family's business and how it came to be an international business in Ypsilanti at the WCHS annual meeting in May.

His grandfather came from Denmark on a boat with his wife and two children. He had learned his trade as an upholsterer in a little town in Schleswig-Holstein in the southern part of Denmark, he said.

"His name was Niels Iver Schmidt the same as his father's and they named me 'Niels Iver Schmidt.' In Danish it is spelled N-i-e-l-s. When I went to school I tried to convince the teacher that that was how it was spelled, but she said, no, it's spelled 'Neils.'

"So I gave up. All through school I was 'Iver Schmidt.' I went into military service and again they spelled it 'Neils.' I went to Social Security and they said, 'Say, do you know your name is spelled wrong?' It's been going on for 67 years.

"Grandfather got friendly on the boat with a man from a little town in Ohio, Medina. The man invited him to come to Medina as manager of his business.

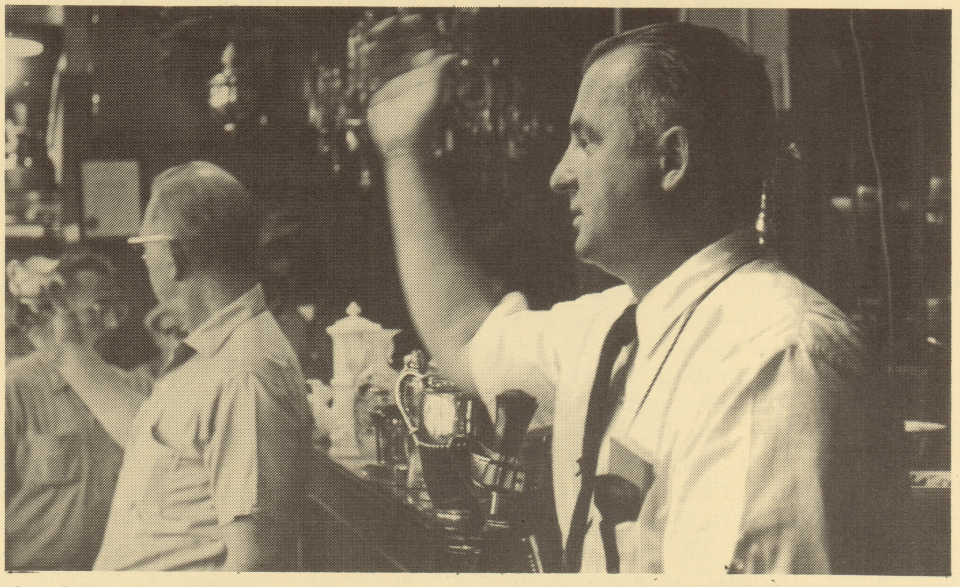
"But grandfather had promised people in Lansingburg, NY, near Troy that he would go there.

"I was told that Lansingburg people came to Michigan and that's how they came to name Michigan's capital 'Lansing.'

"He settled in Troy, NY and manufactured furniture. He advertised in the paper that he manufactured the finest upholstered furniture between New York City and Medina, OH. That was as far west as he was familiar.

"At that time in the early 1900s there came into existence a buggy that didn't take horses, called an automobile. Grandfather said these things will never last. They shake and scare the horses. He went out and bought two buggy factories and lost his shirt.

"In the early 1900s, maybe 1907 or '08, he went into the used furniture business. When my father Alfred was 12 years old, my grandfather went to a warehouse and purchased 12 barrels of china, bric-a-brac and glass for a nominal fee, maybe $25.



Iver Schmidt, auctioning antiques as he has successfully for 50 years, asks, "What am I bid for this cream pitcher?" held by Jim Clark, a now-retired employee with whom Iver started working in 1937.

"There was a man from Bennington, VT, who was an authority on Benningtonware and a big collector of antiques. He looked through a couple of barrels and purchased $185 worth of merchandise from my father. Iver's father, observing that there were still ten barrels left, thought that's not a bad business to go into."

The Vermonter asked Iver's father to buy things for him in their area. Iver's father found for him a Bennington stag deer which is still in the Bennington museum. It was signed and the man had it repaired.

"Don't be particular about imperfections in antiques," Schmidt advised. "Be more particular about authenticity. Something used a 100 years or more is bound to have a chip here or there."

"My father started buying antiques by advertising for feather beds. He did that because feather beds were always put in the attic. When he got in the attic, he might say, 'I'll pay $2 for that chair' or 'would you like to sell that sideboard?'

"He did sell featherbeds, too, and knew a lot about them.

"The peddlers would see a lady who had something to sell and would notify his father. He started a very good business.

"He and his brother came to Detroit in 1911 and opened up a business at Woodward and Adelaide. Later the place was torn down and the Hotel Detroiter was built there.

"It was near the Jessica Bonstelle Theater. He did rent furniture to them. It was called Schmidt Brothers, Auctioneers, and they did most of the big estates in Detroit.

Iver's mother, Blanche Scott Schmidt, now 96, met his father when she went to a Schmidt auction while visiting in Detroit from Illinois.

Blanche's brother had disappeared after going into service. She heard he had gone to Detroit and she and her sister came to find him.

After a few weeks, Blanche had to go back home. Iver's father didn't want her to go so he proposed and they got married. They had four children, Robert, Iver, Jean and Joseph Judson, named for their grandfather, Samuel Judson Scott. The Scott family had been in the United States since the early 1700s.

During the Schmidt's years in Detroit, Henry Ford came to the shop and told Iver's father that he would like to furnish his house as he remembered it when he was a child and if we got any of the things he had written down, he wanted to buy them. He gave us his private phone number.

When he first came in, he priced ten items, left, came back 4-5 days later, priced the same ten items, left, came back a third time, again priced the same ten and bought them.

"The third time, he said, 'I'm Henry Ford.' My father said, 'I know.' Ford was the type of man who would go in back and talk to the cabinet makers. If he saw a watch, he'd say, 'I'll take that home and repair it.'

"At that time there was another fellow buying for Ford by the name of Charles Newton. He told Henry Ford he should build a village and he was instrumental in the construction of Greenfield Village.

"There was another fellow, Fred Hewitt who owned the Brick Walker Tavern Antiques at Cambridge Junction in the Irish Hills. He was an Episcopalian minister who was asked to resign because, when he went to a seminar in Philadelphia, instead of going to the seminar, he was buying antiques.

"In 1921 my father sold his business for $150,000 and went to break the bank at Saratoga (the Las Vegas of the day). He gave my mother some money and she went back to O' Fallon, IL and had my sister.

"It took Dad about 30 days to wire back that he didn't have any money. He went back in business in Troy until about 1924.

"He sold the business and came back to Detroit where he had a terrific business manufacturing lamps.

"The lamp factory sold tulipshades. They had roses and peacocks painted on them. I think my father paid workers about a nickel a shade to paint pictures on them. They sold for $30 or $40.

"The old lamp factory building is still there near the I-94 expressway and Grand River Avenue. As you exit 94 to Grand River, it's on the right.

"We moved to Ann Arbor in 1928, the corner of Wildwood and Dexter, and rented a store on Washington Street behind the bank from Fred Wuerth who owned the Wuerth Theater. In 1930 we moved back to Troy, NY.

"In Troy, my grandfather had a great sale and sold out to Uncle Charlie. My dad was an auctioneer. Someone had two sofas made by Duncan Phyfe, our only American designer, even though he was a Scotsman. One sofa had an original bill of sale and sold for a considerable amount. A similar one without the bill of sale didn't sell for very much."

Schmidt's father returned to Detroit in 1935.

"At that time, Detroit was called the city of champions—Joe Louis, the Tigers, basketball, everything."

They were in business at the corner of Grand River and Ravenwood near Joy Road across from the Riviera Theater.

ONCE AN ANTIQUE DEALER . . .

"I don't know whether I should tell you this story in this particular place," Iver Schmidt said. (The meeting was in the sanctuary of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Ann Arbor's Old West Side.)

"There wan an antique dealer that went to heaven. He came up to the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, 'What can I do for you?'

"The man said, 'I was an antique dealer.'

"St. Peter couldn't find any record of him, so he said, 'Would you mind if I talk to my Superior. I'll be right back.'

"So St. Peter went and took it up with his Superior. When he came back the dealer and the gates were gone."

"I'm going to tell this story because it probably put me in the antique business. I went with my dad on buying trips. He gave a woman $50 for an old desk and loaded it in the truck.

"I said, 'Dad, sometimes you buy a whole house out for $50. Why did you pay $50 for that desk?' My dad replied, 'We'll see.' "

When they got back, a Mrs. Adams in the antique business in Ann Arbor, came in the store and asked what he wanted for the old desk. His father said $150. She took it. "I thought that was kind of good, you can make $100 like that and I'm getting 25 cents an hour."

"In 1939, my mother and father were driving and saw a 'for sale' sign on an old farm near Ypsilanti with a 12-room house, a five-room house, and a couple of big barns, one of which later burned down. It had been called the 'Night's Rest Tourist Home.'

"We moved to Ypsi in January 1939. I graduated from Ypsi High School that year. At that time, I had done a little bit of auctioneering.

"We sold a lady at auction a beautiful Dresden or Meissen vase for, I think, $250. She offered an extra $50 if we would deliver it to Tyler, TX.

"We loaded a station wagon with other merchandise. We stopped at Memphis and peddled some antiques. (His father's brother was in the auto business there). We did some more business in Tyler with Mrs. Wilcox whose husband had invented the Wilcox piston ring and went on to Forth Worth and sold most everything.

In Texas he met and became partners with Jimmy Simmons. They visited New Orleans and found it "full of antiques. They had these four poster beds of walnut and cherry you could buy for $25 or $30. They came from the convents. Now they are worth $200.

The war came along and he registered for the draft in Tyler, TX. After discharge in 1947, he decided to start a business in Texas, and made contacts in Memphis, Louisville, Nashville, Little Rock and Fort Worth where he had an auction.

After three years on the road, he'd had enough.

"We had met an Englishman who said he would take us around England for $150. We took the *Southern Cross* (ship) to England. You could buy desks there for $25 to $30. They were going for $500-$600 over here. There were clocks and scales; banks were getting rid of beautiful old scales.

The first trip he stayed a month-and-a-half. He borrowed money from the bank, went to auction sales, antiques shops, trade buyers and markets. Every little town in England had a market once a week where you could buy everying including furniture, he said.

He got a packer and packed everything. He had to pass up 700 Windsor chairs for $1 each for lack of money. They are now worth $75 each.

He went to Amsterdam and met a packer who invited him and his wife for the evening and sold Schmidt two containers of antiques before he got any money.

About a year later he went to Vienna. They found all the antique shops high priced. He found a fellow named Duetsch and bought some things from his warehouse. Duetsch had 500-600 clocks. Iver said he'd take 100. The man persuaded him to take 200 at $1 each.

They are now scarce and sell for about $35 over there.

Iver went to Paris where they had a big flea market, and Denmark where he bought hanging lamps cheap. Now Iver and his brother take turns traveling to Europe.

Iver had just been to Paris in March and found it much more expensive than before. "It used to be you could get a room for $12 and meals for $4 to $6." This time he stayed at a "poor motel" and meals wre $30 to $40.

"After we had been going to Europe we decided we would incorporate and take in a partner, Robert Holcomb. About five years ago we took in another partner, Tom Schmidt."

Iver's grandfather used to say, "If somebody liked it once, there are more people in the world today so you have more customers."

Iver's father used to say, 'You can't be a collector and a dealer too.' My father never refused to sell anything he had, never. Another saying of his was, 'leave a little bit in it for somebody else.' I believe that."

"One day a Mrs. Stranahan came into the shop. She asked her chauffeur to go out and get that punch bowl in the car. He brought it in and put it on the table. There was a date on it. I asked what she wanted for it.

"I don't know,' she said. "I've had it in the house for years. Whatever you think."

"I thought it was worth at least a thousand dollars. Not knowing exactly what it was worth, either, I called this fellow up. I got $3,500.

"The story I later heard was that the buyer had it in a tea case and went to the New York antique shows. Before he got it out he was asked what he wanted for it and he sold it for $10,000.

"The next guy sold it for $15,000, the next for $20,000. It finally got unpacked at about $30,000 and finally sold for $50,000.

"It was Louis Comfort Tiffany's exhibition piece at the 1901 World's Fair in Paris. It is now in the Chrysler Museum of Art Glass in the east.

"Everybody made a little money. Actually any item is worth whatever you sell it for."

"Any time you buy antiques you are pretty safe. The industrial revolution started in 1860. Anything made prior to that was handmade and is an antique. An authentic antique is something made during its period. Anything manufactured can be manufactured again.

"If its *objets d'art*, that's another story."

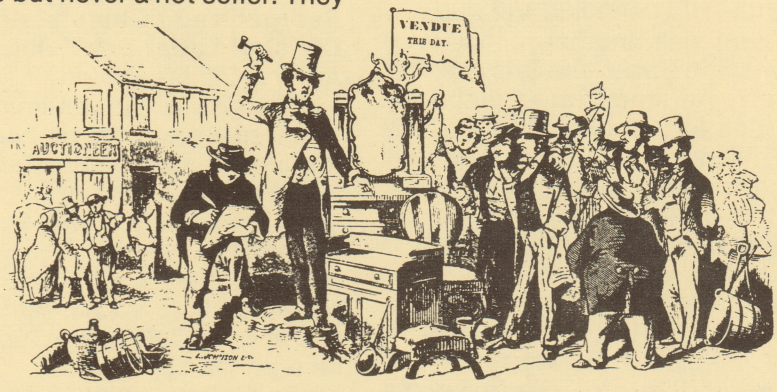
Schmidt, who has been in the antique business since 1937, said he got a raise that year to 32½ cents an hour and he signed up for Social Security which started that year. At the time he couldn't believe that anybody could even make $100 a week or $5,200 a year.

Asked if parlor organs were in demand, Schmidt said, "They are saleable but never a hot seller. They don't bring the price people think they are worth."

Asked what he considered old, he said, "There are antiques and there are collector's items. A real antique is something made by hand during the period in which it was designed."

We have lots of collector's items. I'm not happy with some but we do handle them."

His nephew and partner noted that they still buy feather mattresses and Iver concluded his talk saying (phoenetically) go-ra-mila-ma-agatt, "a million thanks" in Gaelic.



COUPLE WED IN 1879 IN COBBLESTONE LOG HOUSE STILL LIVED THERE ON 1929 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

If the walls of the Willis log house at Cobblestone Farm could talk they could tell us about Mr. and Mrs. Darno or Darnell Phelps who had lived in it for 50 years when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1929.

Actually, Mrs. Phelps had lived in it more than 60 years because her parents bought in in 1868 when she was about 12, probably from the Harris family who built it around 1836-37.

WCHS member Lillian Brown of Milan ran across a 1929 newspaper article in her history and genealogy research that told about it and called it to the editor's attention.

Bert Smith of Tecumseh who gave the log house to Cobblestone Farm remembers the Phelp's daughter, Miss Jessie Phelps, "Aunt" Jessie to him. came up to live in it but didn't like it, so Bert Smith's folks bought it. As neighbors they had been looking after it for the Phelps' children.

About 400 persons attended the Phelps' golden anniversary celebration in the Willis Methodist Church. Governor F. W. Green sent his regrets. Mr. Phelps repeated his vows in the same white waistcoat he had worn at the original wedding, according to the article, probably from the *Ypsilanti Press.*

Mrs. Phelps had been an invalid for 20 years, moving about with crutches. Her parents, not named, came from England and married in 1855. Both she and her husband were born in 1856, she near Rawsonville, and he in Ohio.

She attended rural schools and taught one year at the Brick School before her marriage.

Her husband was brought to Rawsonville and Ypsilanti by his parents. His father, a wheelwright, died in 1861. Two years later, his mother died. He had only three months of formal education except for what his wife taught him.

She must have taught him well because he was a county deputy sheriff for three years, an overseer for two years, a moderator of Brick School for nine years, President of the Patrons of Industry and a member of the Maccabees.

The house is described as "picturesque, a typical pioneer's log cabin . . . the same boards cover the floor, worn by their usage."

ALICE PASTALAN HEADS DEXTER SOCIETY

Alice Pastalan is the new president of Dexter Historical Society. Dilys Wisely is recording secretary, Margaret Guenther corresponding secretary and Nancy Walker, treasurer. Anne Nuttle is immediate past president.

Directors are Virginia Wilson, representing the village; Dorothy Beach, Lima Township, Earl Doletzky, Dexter Township; Katie Waggoner, Scio; James Socks, Webster; and Ethel Samuelson, schools.

Lorraine Govaere is museum director, Hazel Kaufman, assistant director. Rose Van Aken is museum secretary and Ms. Walker, treasurer.

AAHDC GETS GRANT TO MAKE VIDEOTAPES

The Ann Arbor Historic District Commission has obtained a grant through the state Bureau of History to produce two video tapes about historic architectural style in conjunction with the Michigan Historic District Network, Louisa Pieper, Network treasurer, said.

The first will be a basic introduction, the second advanced. The latter will be by Kingsbury Marzolf, U-M architecture professor. They will be available to HDC's and study committees, probably at cost.

AFRICAN VIOLET DISPLAY SET FOR SEPTEMBER 27

African violets, those old Victorian favorites, will be displayed 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, by Jeannette Benson of South Lyon at the Kempf House. She will give an informal class on care and growing of violets at 2 p.m. Some will be on sale. Admission is $1.

Kempf House will be open 1-4 p.m. every other Sunday, Sept. 13-Dec. 14. Admission is 50 cents.

'BET HE COULDN'T SPELL IT

"Samuel, how do you spell Jinrickshaw?" asked Mrs. Brown, who was writing of her experiences while on a trip to Japan.

"You mean gin rickey?" suggested her husband.

"No, I mean those carts that the Japanese run around in."

"Oh, I don't know. Just put it "Japanese Fords.' "

From *Ford Smiles: All The Best Current Jokes About A Rattling Good Car,* by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesberry Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

NEW MEMBERS

New members since last reported are:

Commercial:
- Bruce Freund & Co.

Regular & Senior:
- Rosemarion Alexander Blake
- Howard E. Bond
- Sally Kelly
- Nancy H. Krohn
- Barbara Hanzal Luck
- Patrick A. Owen
- Pollack Design Associates
- Lois Elaine Watson

Mrs. B.E. (Phyllis) Miller (correction from May list).

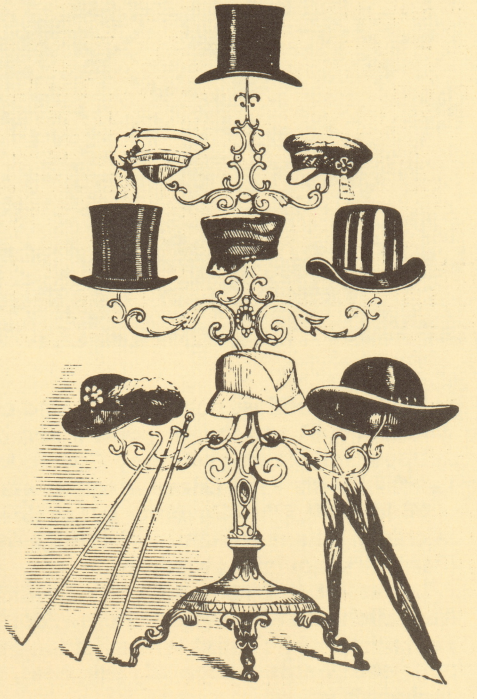
HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to Pauline Walters, 2200 Fuller Road, B-1202, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Information: 663-2379 evenings/weekends.

Annual dues are $8 for individuals, $15 a couple. Senior individual (60) dues are $6, or $11 a senior couple. Sustaining dues are $50, commercial $25 and student $2. Only one of a couple need be 60 to qualify for senior membership status.

OCTOBER SPEAKER TOLD

Helen F. Gilbert, Plymouth author of two volumes of *Tonquish Tales*, will talk about local and Michigan Indian history at the October 18 meeting of Washtenaw County Historical Society.



WCHS GAINS $1,528; THANKS COMERICA, PARKING VOLUNTEERS

WCHS gained $1,528 thanks to Comerica Bank at Washington and Fifth Avenue and a crew of hardy volunteers who parked cars there after hours during the Art Fair in July, despite the 90 degree heat.

Marguerite Harms, Pete Rocco and Galen Wilson coordinated the project and parked cars.

Other helpers were Richard Cross, Joan and Roger Ellsworth, Bob and Lucille Fisher, Cal Foster, Carol Freeman, Jackie Greenhut, Sally Kelly, Pat Owen, Monica Pastorino and Nancy Schuon.

Completing the list were Ingrid Sheldon, Margaret and Nicholas Steneck, Pauline Walters, Esther Warzynski and Lawrence and Alice Ziegler.

This is the tenth year that the Society has parked cars. Last year's net was $1,241.

CERTIFICATES GIVEN TO MANCHESTER, WEBER'S

Anniversary certificates were presented this summer to Manchester Township on its 150th anniversary and to Weber's Inn on their 50th year in business in Ann Arbor.

The Manchester presentation was made by the editor at Heritage Day ceremonies July 16, dedicating the new gazebo in the village square off West Main Street. Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley was the main speaker, and former Governor John B. Swainson master of ceremonies.

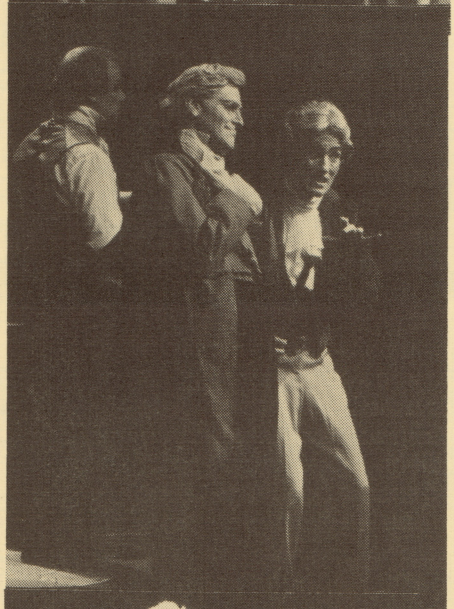
Similar hand-lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries. For more information, call 663-8826.

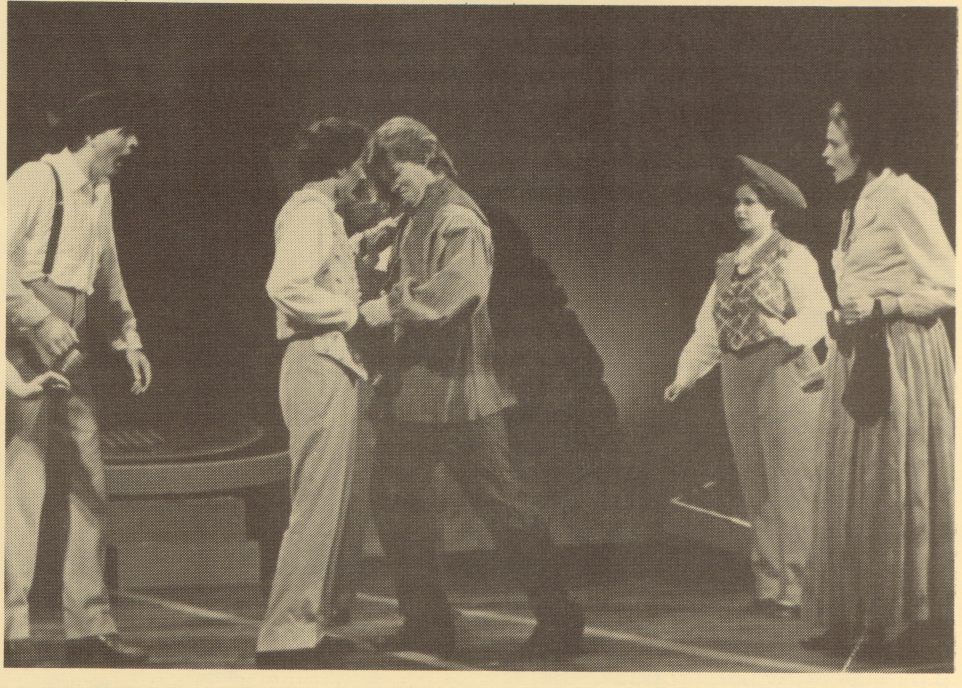
COBBLESTONE EVENTS

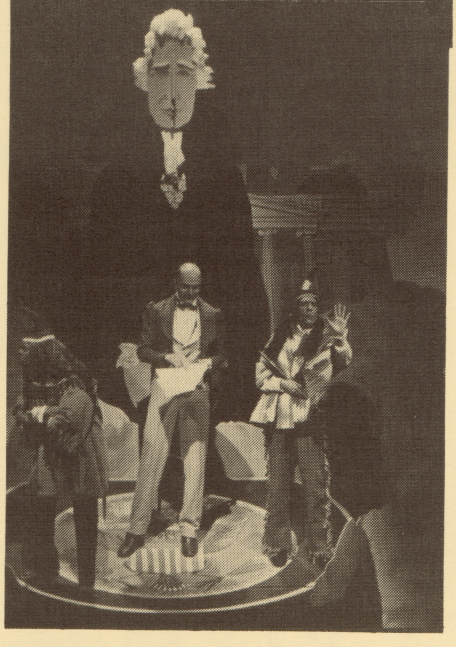
Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance (AActmad) will hold its annual festival at Cobblestone Farm Sunday, Sept. 20

Cobblestone Farm's Fall Festival is set for 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4. A variety of arts and crafts demonstrations are planned along with horse drawn wagon rides and refreshments.

SCENES FROM 'ALIENS & SCOUNDRELS'







Politics, politics, politics. Plot and counter plot. That's what the Toledo War was all about and the play was a sort of live comic political cartoon.

Upper left, Michigan's Boy Governor Stephens T. Mason (played by Steven Lane) with his valet (Steve Dixon) is elated at news of statehood at last.

Middle left, Ohio Governor Lucas (Stephen Kelly) listens to a proposition from Michigan villain William Woodbridge (right, T.V. Silvia), while Lucas's secretary (Peter Greenquist) eavesdrops.

Lower left, in Washington City, Lewis Cass, center, Jackson's Secretary of War from Michigan (Christopher Korow) doubletalks Indians (Dock Riley, Jr., left, and Tom Silvia) while Great White Father, President Andrew Jackson (in form of puppet) who wants peace at any cost, looks benignly down. Greenquist was Jackson's voice.

Upper right, Michigan General Brown (Korow) takes aim as commander-in-chief of the Michigan Militia. Lower right, Ohio's Two Stickney (Geoffrey Collins), right center, inflicts the war's only casualty, a non-fatal wound on a Michigan sheriff in a travern brawl.

WCHS TOLEDO WAR PLAY ARTISTIC SUCCESS

Nearly 1,000 persons saw the WCHS sponsored play about the 1830s Toledo War, "Aliens and Scoundrels," when it was performed June 3-6 in the U-M's Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre.

WCHS sponsored the play in honor of Michigan's sesquicentennial this year with a lot of help from other quarters.

Ellen Prosser of Ann Arbor researched and wrote the play over the past four years. The Michigan Council for the Arts made a substantial grant. The play was staffed and directed by local theatre talent. The main corps of ushers was from Civic Theatre.

The play opened to favorable review in *The Ann Arbor News.* In lieu of the annual tour, WCHS offered a dinner-theatre package with dinner at Escoffier restaurant.

Ala Faik, U-M Ph.D. in acting and directing, directed. Allan Billings, a resident faculty senior designer in the U-M department of theatre and drama, designed the ingenious set.

Most of the dozen actors nimbly took several parts each. Stephen Skellywho played Governor Robert Lucas of Ohio and Peter Greenquist who played Harriman Hinkson, Lucas's secretary, are perhaps best known to local readers as announcers on WUOM Radio. Greenquist also was the voice of President Andrew Jackson.

Steven F. Lane, who has appeared in several Ann Arbor Civic Theatre productions, played Michigan's Boy Governor, Stevens T. Mason. Marty Smith, an Ann Arbor attorney, played Ohio promoter Major Benjamin Franklin Stickney.

Also in the cast were Ann R. Burns, Jennifer Butch, Geoffrey Collins, Steve Dixon, Christopher Korow, Dock Riley, Jr., T.V. Silvia, and Anne Walker.

Galen Wilson, immediate past-president, took major responsiblity in preparing the successful grant proposal with Ms. Prosser, Thomas L. Jones, David S. Pollock, Thomas E. Loewe, and Martin Walsh.

Letters of support for the grant came from Judith Dow Alexander, Rep. Perry Bullard, Jean Ledwith King, John B. Welch, Sen. Lana Pollack and Thom Johnson.

Pauline Walters and helpers mailed out over 6,000 brochures.

Part of the "Aliens and Scoundrels" cast takes a bow as members of the Great Lakes Ancient Field Misick Fife and Drum Corps play, front right. Ohio set at right, Michigan set at left, Washington City at back and disputed strip of land, front and center stage.

Reeva Cranor, Elizabeth Dusseau, Galen Wilson and Lawrence Ziegler helped prepare the mailings. Lucy and Joe Kooperman and Bob Miller also assisted.

Louisa Pieper chaired the box office committee. Taking stints there were Elizabeth Dusseau, Roy Kiplinger, Bill Wallach, Pauline Walters, Galen Wilson and Alice Ziegler. Albert Pieper and Alice Ziegler ushered.

The play was co-sponsored by the U-M Celebration '87 Committee and the Washtenaw Sesquicentennial Advisory Committee.

Michigan Governor Mason (Lane) is about to get a surprise from his playful sister, Emily, (Jennifer Butch) as he writes at his desk.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE:
BICYCLES, BARNDANCE, CEMETERIES, CRAFTS, FALL FESTIVAL

Chelsea Historical Society: meets 7:30 p.m. second Monday usually in the Crippen Building at the Chelsea Methodist Home. The Sept. 14 meeting may be elsewhere. The Society is selling a cookbook, *Then and Now,* composed of recipes from around the community for $5. For information or to confirm meeting place, call Katie Chapman, 475-7558.

Dexter Society: Museum, 3443 Inverness, open 1-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and by appointment. Call 426-3341 or 426-4331.

Manchester Society: meets 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. James Hurd of Manchester, who runs the bicycle museum in Ann Arbor, will talk about bicycles at the Sept. 21 meeting.

Milan Society: meets at 7:30 p.m., third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 Country Street. Work sessions are planned to scrape and prepare the house for painting. They plan to use three coordinated colors.

The Society was scheduled to sell sundaes to help raise money for painting at Milanfest, Aug. 29-30.

Northfield Society: meets at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Ronald Kapp of Alma College will talk and show slides about the Kapp family of Northfield Township.

Pittsfield Society: meets 2 p.m. first Sunday of the month at Township Hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: an old-fashioned barn dance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sep. 24 in a barn on Eight Mile Road just west of Napier Road. A caller will call square dances. Cider and doughnuts. Public invited.

Saline Society: Wystan Stevens will give a slide talk about county cemeteries at the 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24 meeting at the old railroad depot. Refreshments will be served first (7-ish). Business meeting after program.

Albert Rogers, chairman of the society is on the local commission to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. A locally written play will be presented by the Saline Players at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17 at Weller's Carriage House.

A new singing group will sing patriotic songs. Also planned are a tree planting, wagon procession, birthday cake, proclamation by the mayor and maybe the ringing of church bells. Sept. 17 is the day the constitution was signed by the delegates.

Webster Society: The sixth annual all-day fall festival is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26 at Webster corners, Webster Church and Farrell Roads.

Plans include a rummage and antique sale, country store, bake sale, old-fashioned (homemade) carnival, arts and crafts demos, hay rides, petting zoo, a noon luncheon and pig roast supper.

The Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at the home of Dan and Linda Chapman, 3430 North Zeeb Road.

Ypsilanti Society: A craft show is planned for 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 at museum, 220 North Huron. Open to the public, free of charge. Quilting, crocheting, wood working, chair caning, etc.

Annual meeting with election of officers, 3 p.m. Sunday Sept. 20, location to be announced.

Special museum exhibit on the Michigan sesquicentennial and Ypsilanti history to mid-September, followed by crafts such as lace and quilts. Museum hours are 2-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

WCHS MEETINGS
1987-88

Sunday, Sept. 13, 1987, 2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 18, 1987, 2 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 15, 1987, 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 21, 1988, 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 20, 1988, 2 p.m.
Sunday, April 17, 1988, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4, 1988, 6 p.m. (annual meeting)
Saturday, June 11, 1988 (annual tour)
All to be at the Ann Arbor American Legion, 1035 South Main, unless otherwise announced.

'WHAT IS IT' GAME AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it" game for children to schools and another for adults.

They are available for classes and meetings, subject to time and volunteer availability. For information call Karen O'Neal, chairwoman, 665-2242.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Keylining: Lawrence Ziegler
Mailing: Lucy Kooperman, 668-7174
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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2:00 P.M. SUNDAY, September 13, 1987
AMERICAN LEGION
1035 South Main
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Mrs. Nancy H. Krohn
905 Robin Road
Ann Arbor MI 48103